REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 27, 2007. Claims 42 to 45, 47, 59, 76, 78, 79, 81 and 82 are pending in the application, of which Claims 42, 59 and 78 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 42 to 44, 47, 59 and 76 to 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,088,120 (Shibusawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,103 (Zuber). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of Zuber. Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of Zuber , and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 (Lobiondo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns receiving capability description information of a first print apparatus and capability description information of a second print apparatus, and generating synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus. More specifically, the invention concerns recognizing values of capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, recognizing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, and synthesizing the capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus based on the recognized synthesizing method.

In this manner, the method to be used for generating the synthesized capability description information can be determined, thereby resulting in the generation of

appropriate synthesized capability description information. For example, in the case where a new capability is described in capability information of a print apparatus, the method for synthesizing the value of the new capability is described, resulting in the generation of proper synthesized capability description information.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 42 is directed to a print processing method which is executed by a print system to which plural print apparatuses and an information processing apparatus are connected. The method includes a selecting step of selecting at least two or more print apparatuses from among the plural print apparatuses; a receiving step of receiving capability description information of a first print apparatus and capability description information of a second print apparatus, both selected in the selecting step; a first recognition step of recognizing values of capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, from a first description described in the respective capability description information received in the receiving step; a second recognition step of recognizing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, from a second description described in the respective capability description information received in the receiving step; a first generating step of, based on the synthesizing method recognized in the second recognition step, generating synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing a value obtained by executing arithmetic calculation to the values of the capabilities recognized in the first recognition step; and a second generating step of, based on the synthesizing method recognized in the second recognition step, generating the

synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing the capability included in at least one of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus.

Applicant submits that Shibusawa and Zuber do not disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, at least the features of recognizing values of capabilities of a first print apparatus and a second print apparatus, from a first description described in respective capability description information, recognizing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, from a second description described in the respective capability description information, generating, based on the recognized synthesizing method, capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing a value obtained by executing arithmetic calculation to the recognized values of the capabilities, and generating, based on the recognized synthesizing method, capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing the capability included in at least one of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus.

More specifically, Shibusawa discloses that in a case where a printer having the capability of printing on A4, B4 and A3 papers and another printer having the capability of printing on A5 and A4 papers are synthesized, the synthesized printer corresponds to A5, A4, B4 and A3 papers. That is, Shibusawa discloses that a synthesized

printer's capabilities include a sum of sets of those papers. Furthermore, Shibusawa discloses that in a case where a printer having the capability of printing on A4, B4 and A3 papers and another printer having the capability of printing on A5 and A4 papers are synthesized, the synthesized printer corresponds to A4 papers. That is, Shibusawa discloses that a synthesized printer's capabilities include a product of the sets of those papers.

Moreover, as Zuber merely discloses summing engine speeds, a proper combination of Shibusawa and Zuber merely suggests that a product of sets, a sum of sets, or arithmetic adding may be possible synthesizing methods. Shibusawa and Zuber do not disclose recognizing which one of a product of sets, a sum of sets, or arithmetic adding is to be used to synthesize values of capabilities. Therefore, neither Sibusawa nor Zuber, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest recognizing values of capabilities of a first print apparatus and a second print apparatus, from a first description described in respective capability description information, recognizing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, from a second description described in the respective capability description information, generating, based on the recognized synthesizing method, capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing a value obtained by executing arithmetic calculation to the recognized values of the capabilities, and generating, based on the recognized synthesizing method, capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print

apparatus, by describing the capability included in at least one of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus.

Applicant has reviewed Lobiondo and found nothing in Lobiondo that cures the above-described deficiencies of Shibusawa and Zuber. In light of these deficiencies in Shibusawa, Zuber and Lobiondo, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 42 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 59 and 78 are directed to a program stored on a computer-readable storage medium, and an information processing apparatus, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 42. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 59 and 78 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

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Respectfully submitted,

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